

Hope in Perilous Times, Part 5 - Acts 20:22-27 – June 7th, 2009

- This is part 5 in our series titled, "Hope in Perilous Times." Chapter 20 details the difficulties the early church faced in perilous times.
- What makes this study so interesting is that the Apostle Paul is going to rise from the pages and show us how we can have hope.

1. Be Encouraged (Verses 1-2)

- The Apostle Paul was not only encouraged, but he was an encourager as well, as we're told about twice in the first two verses.

2. Be Patient (Verse 3a)

- He patiently stays in Greece for three months because of a plot against him, and during this difficult time he writes the book of Romans.

3. Be Prudent (Verse 3b)

- Because of the threat on his life, Paul prudently decides to back through Macedonia instead of Syria. He's not paranoid, he's prudent.

4. Be Together (Verses 4-5)

- We have the names of several men, whom Paul sends together to Troas as a security measure to protect them from being attacked.

5. Be Flexible (Verse 6)

- What is normally a one day trip, takes five instead, which seems to indicate that this journey was rough, and riddled with uncertainty.

6. Be Comforted (Verses 7-12)

- They we're all comforted when Eutychus, who fell asleep during Paul's sermon then to his death out of a 3-story window is raised to life.

7. Be Strong (Verses 13-14)

- After talking all night, Paul's seemingly strong enough because he walks the 25 miles from Troas to Assos instead of taking the boat.

8. Be Diligent (Verses 15-16)

- Paul decides to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time there because he wants to be diligent and get to Jerusalem by Pentecost.

9. Be Humble (Verses 17-19)

- Paul pours out his heart to the Ephesian elders telling them in spite of all the trials, he's served the Lord with great humility and tears.

10. Be forthright (Verses 20-21)

- Paul tells them how he didn't hesitate to be frank in his preaching because being straightforward and forthright is what helps people.

11. Be Heavenly-Minded (Verses 22-24)

22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, **I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me**-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

v22-23 Paul tells them that he's compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem even though the Holy Spirit has warned him of what he faces.

v24 We're given the "why" behind "what" Paul is doing, he says the reason he can do this is because he considers his life worth nothing.

- Paul was so "heavenly-minded" he couldn't help but do "earthly-good." His early life was nothing compared to his heavenly calling.

- "None of these things moved him." He had done the math, counted the cost, and determined the worth, thus he wouldn't be shaken.

Philippians 3:7-8 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ NIV

Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. NIV

Psalm 15 1 LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? 2 He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart 3 and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, 4 who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, 5 who lends his money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken. NIV

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. KJV

12. Be Biblical (Verses 25-27)

25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that **I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.**

v25 Paul tells them that those whom he has preached to will never see him again, then goes on to make a remarkable declaration.

v26-27 He declares that he's innocent of the blood of all men because he hadn't hesitated to proclaim the whole counsel or Word of God.

- In other words, had he hesitated, and not preached the whole counsel or Word of God he would've been guilty of the blood of all men.

- Paul knew of the stricter judgment if he shied away from teaching the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help him God.

James 3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. NIV

- The reason for this is; what we hold in our hands and teach from our pulpits can make a life and death difference for all of eternity.
- If I, as a pastor and Bible teacher don't preach and teach to you that which has the power to save you, I will have to account for that.

"That man does not preach the whole counsel of God who does not let God's Word speak for itself in its own pure, simple language . . . He will not shirk the truth. He will dare to look at it straight in the face himself and then he will bring it up into the pulpit, and there say to it, 'O Word, speak for thyself, and be thou heard alone. Suffer me not, O Lord, to pervert or misinterpret thine own heaven-sent truth.'"

Charles Spurgeon

- I strongly believe that, if we are going to survive let alone thrive in the perilous times ahead, we can't play games with the Word of God!

2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:1-5 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. NIV